

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 15 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,275,623 (Brophy et al). Brophy et al issued August 14, 2001, which is subsequent to the filing date of the present application, and therefore does not constitute prior art at the time of the invention of the present invention and is not citable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Moreover, Applicant would like to point out that the dispersive element 40 in the Brophy et al reference does not have a "concave" surface, and respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assessment that the dispersive element 40 is for "focusing each sub-beam of light onto a focal plane thereof". In fact, a separate lens 42 is provided for focusing the sub-beams onto the element 50. None of the dispersive elements disclosed in the Brophy et al reference can disperse the light into sub-beams and focus the various sub-beams onto the modulator array, which is positioned proximate the focal plane of the dispersive element, without the help of a separate lensing element.

Minor amendments have been made to claim 19 to correct the dependency and to ensure all aspects of the invention are protected. Claim 21 has been added for similar reasons

As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 50-1465.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No: 50-1465.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy W. Lacasse".

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